

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 MCT-01 /048 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0873
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4274

BOGOTA FOR ASST SECY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, OCUM, EFIN, AR, US
SUBJECT: OAS BILATERALS; DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 4132, (B) STATE 130651

1. SUBSECRETARY FOREIGN RELATIONS CAPT WALTER ALLARA AND MINISTERS ARLIA AND ESPECHE RECEIVED ME AND ACTING POLCOUNS MAY 7. THEY WERE INFORMED OF SECRETARY'S BREAKFAST INVITATION AT HIS HOTEL 0800 JUNE 16 AND ALLARA STATED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT HE COULD ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF FONMIN MONTES, WHO WAS WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE TIME. SUBSEQUENTLY FONOFF CONFIRMED ACCEPTANCE FOR MONTES AND ALLARA. LATTER ACCOMPANYING SINCE THIS IS MONTES' FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

2. ALLARA SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE US WITH A LIST OF TOPICS THE MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO RAISE AFTER CONSULTING WITH HIM NOTHING RECEIVED YET.

3. I TOLD ALLARA THAT WE HAD NOTED A NUMBER OF REFERENCES BY GOA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, TO A DESIRE TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WITH THE USG, WITH THE OBJECTIVE
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OF ELIMINATING CONFLICT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. THE SECRETARY'S INVITATION COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A RESPONSE TO THESE GOA STATEMENTS AND, NATURALLY, THE SECRETARY'S PRIMARY TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WOULD BE HUMAN RIGHTS. I OBSERVED THAT THE LOCAL PRESS HAD NOT FACTUALLY REPORTED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OR TONE OF FINANCE MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ' CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND

DR. BRZEZINSKI IN THAT THEY HAD NOT CONVEYED THE USG CONCERN THAT LACK OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION COULD LEAD TO A NEGATIVE VOTE ON ARGENTINE LOAN PROJECTS IN INTERNATIONAL BANKS. IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION, IT WOULD BE OF PRIME INTEREST TO THE SECRETARY TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES WHATEVER PLANS THE GOA WAS CONSIDERING FOR A RETURN TO NORMALITY NOW THAT, AS MANY GOA OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT HAVE STATED, THE SUPPRESSION OF WIDESPREAD TERRORISM IS ALMOST COMPLETED.

4. ALLARA REPORTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WAS ALSO TOPMOST ON THE GOA AGENDA AND THAT THE MINISTER WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING IT WITH THE SECRETARY. HE STATED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT DESPITE ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT THE WAR ON TERRORISM IS VIRTUALLY WON, THERE IS STILL A WAY TO GO AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO CURRENT PLANS FOR NORMALIZATION. THE MINISTER WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THE SECRETARY. HE SAID IT WAS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD REALITIES OF THE CURRENT ARGENTINE SITUATION. I COUNTERED THAT IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE GOA AUTHORITIES NOT REPEAT NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE USG TOOK A NEGATIVE POSITION ON ARGENTINE LOAN REQUESTS IN THE IBRD. ALLARA AVOIDED DIRECT COMMENT ON THIS POINT, BUT CLEARLY GOT THE MESSAGE.

5. COMMENT: ALLARA'S REACTION WAS EVIDENCE THAT DESIRE FOR PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH US ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT UNIVERSALLY SHARED WITHIN THE GOA. WHILE DISAPPOINTING, CONFIDENTIAL

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IT IS NOT THE LAST WORD. THERE IS DIVISION WITHIN THE GOA, BOTH ON HOW TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM IN THE FUTURE, AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THE US ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I BELIEVE THAT FURTHER PRESSURE FROM THE SECRETARY, STRESSING THAT ARGENTINES THEMSELVES HAVE SAID THE WAR ON TERRORISM IS ALMOST WON, SHOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT.

6. I WILL BE SEEING MARTINEZ DE HOZ' DEPUTY, WALTER KLEIN, AND GO OVER SAME GROUND AS WITH ALLARA. UPON MARTINEZ DE HOZ' RETURN, I WILL SEEK HIS OPINION ON HOW GOA VIEWS PROSPECTS OF NEGATIVE US ACTION IN IFIS. CHAPLIN

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Disposition History: n/a
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